

# STUDY OF THE SITUATION AND CONSERVATION OF CATALAN GOAT BREEDS

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## INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The last 75 years have supposed a radical change in animal production, in which, an increase in intensive production around the globe, using only a few highly productive breeds, and rural depopulation, have led us to the reduction and extinction of most of the autochthonous breeds.

The aim of this final degree project is to analyse the situation of local caprine breeds in Catalonia, its potential, and the reasons and way they should be maintained. The study has been done through bibliographic research and interviews with the breeders, racial associations, and a member of the DARP working in the promotion and maintenance of local breeds.

## CATALAN NATIVE BREEDS

CBR

4955 goats, 31 herds

White rustic goat distributed in meridional Catalan regions, especially in the Tivissa and Cardó ranges. Used for extensive raised goatling production it is excellent clearing the forest as it feeds on arbustive vegetation and undergrowth.

It was officially recognised in 2011 and consolidating until then.

CABRA BLANCA DE RASQUERA

CC

300 goats, 6 herds

White rustic goat settled in Lleida's Pre-Pyrenees and Pyrenees, especially in the Montsec range. As the Blanca de Rasquera, it feeds on the mountains and its productive orientation is the extensive raised goatling meat.

Although some authors considered it extinct, in 2005 a herd of it was found. Morphological and genetic studies done on that population proved that it is a differentiated breed.

Despite this, its recognition was requested in 2017 and denied because of the reduced size of the population and possibly economic and political motivations.

CABRA CATALANA

UAB

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

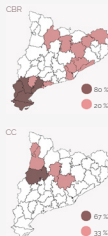


Figure 1. Census distribution of Cabra Blanca de Rasquera and Cabra Catalana

## CONSERVATION

WHY

- Ecosystemic services
  - Genetic stock that ensures biodiversity maintenance for further generations
- Forest biomass reduction - fire reduction in Tivissa and Montsec
- Genuine high-quality products - crestó meat
- Increasing of rural tourism - rural repopulation
- Patrimonial and cultural symbol

HOW

- |  |       |      |
|--|-------|------|
| 1. Association                               | CBR ✓ | CC ✓ |
| 2. Recognition and genealogical register (*) | CBR ✓ | CC × |
| 3. Genetic enhancing programs                | CBR ✓ | CC × |

## CONCLUSIONS

Constant extinction is narrowing the genetic basis, which puts the next generations in a lack of biodiversity risk

There are multiple reasons that justify the need to conserve the local breeds

Economic aid and official recognition have a key role in local breed conservation

In Catalonia the next steps should be:

1. Continue to maintain and strengthen Blanca de Rasquera herds
2. Work in the official recognition of Cabra Catalana
3. Study if there are other local breeds that may remain unknown like Rossellonesa

(\*) It is done by the Comité de Razas de Ganado de España in which Catalogue there are currently 158 Breeds.

Both racial associations agree there may be economical and political reasons involved in it.

Studies of this recognition and its influencing factors from new and different points of view should be done.